The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met at a Committee of the Whole on Friday, March 16, 2001 at 3:30 p.m. and Saturday, March 17, 2001 at 9:30 a.m. at “The American Inn” K.I. Sawyer, Gwinn, Michigan, for the purpose of a Strategic Goal Setting Workshop.


Chairperson Carnie explained the purpose of the workshop is to participate in a Leadership and Strategic Goal Setting process to set a direction and establish goals for the future. He introduced Lyle Sandell, Facilitator, for the Workshop. Mr. Sandell has over 20 years experience helping cities and counties enhance effectiveness and teamwork.

Mr. Sandell gave a brief overview of his background and explained the Strategic Goal Setting process and County Board responsibilities, which include: 1) Determine Our Business; 2) Define Goals for 5 years; 3) Develop Strategies; 4) Establish Annual Agenda — “To Do” List; 5) Make Policy Decisions; 6) Link to Community — “The Stakeholders,” 7) Be an Advocate; 8) Design to County Staff; 9) Monitor Performance and Results; 10) Set the “Corporate” Time; and 11) Hire an Chief Executive Officer.

Mr. Sandell also explained to Commissioners that Existing Office Holders and Department Heads for Marquette County participated in a similar workshop and their ideas and goals will be incorporated into the workshop. The information received from them includes: 1) Targets for 2001 — Short-Term Issues and Projects; 2) Projects and Issues in Progress; 3) Major Changes; and 4) Department Successes 2000.

Each Commissioner was instructed to participate and identify the Core Business of Marquette County. Commissioner’s consensus included: Maintaining Public Records, Administering Courts and Justice System, Collect and Distribute Taxes, Operate Jail and Detention Facilities, Protect Public Health and Safety, Maintain Public Infrastructure and Facilities, and Facilitate Economic Development. How these core services can be improved and their value to our citizens.

Commissioners also participated in selecting a Policy Agenda 2001 — Targets of Action. Commissioner’s consensus included: Maintaining Public Records, Administering Courts and Justice System, Collect and Distribute Taxes, Operate Jail and Detention Facilities, Protect Public Health and Safety, Maintain Public Infrastructure and Facilities, and Facilitate Economic Development. How these core services can be improved and their value to our citizens.

Finally, Commissioners participated in selecting and identifying Goals for Marquette County. Mr. Sandell explained that in identifying Goals for Marquette County, Commissioners should keep in mind they need to be clear, specific, and measurable. In the course of the process, Commissioners’ consensus included: 1) Marquette County: 2) Improve our image as a County of Choice; 3) Core Business; 4) Self Evaluation. All of these identified include: a Positive Image of County Government, Healthy Families and Individuals, and a Highly Motivated County Workforce.

No action was taken by Commissioners.

In summary, Mr. Sandell explained that a relationship to the goals identified, Commissioners should remember three points: Objectives, Meaning and Actions. Goals can be defined by government dollars, both federal and state, and population. We recommended Commissioners adopt Goals for Marquette County including the Targeted Audience and Core Businesses.

Mr. Sandell will incorporate materials discussed during the Strategic Planning Session and forward a draft report to Commissioners within three weeks. He thanked Commissioners for their cooperation and involvement.

Respectfully submitted,

Conrad W. Brenas
Deputy County Clerk